

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been cancelled. Claims 11-13 and 16 have been amended. Claims 20-35 have been added. Reconsideration and favorable action in this application is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The amendments to the specification are made in response to the objections to the specification made by the Examiner. It is submitted that the amendments to the Table A and to the description of Fig. 5 on page 13 cure the objections raised in Paragraph 1 of the Office Action. With regard to the description of FIGURE 5 on page 13, Applicant has described the parts listed on the drawing as originally filed. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicants have corrected Claim 16 to correct the typographical error. Applicants submit that the correction to Claim 16 cures the objection raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's willingness to allow claims 13-17 if they are placed in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claims 13-17 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Internet Engineering Task Force document FRC 792, "Internet Control message Protocol" by J. Postel ("Postel"), in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,735,215 ("Cao").

Applicants submit that the claims, as currently presented, are limited to facilitating network topology discovery and require the exchange of an optical link identifier between two nodes. Neither Postel nor Cao are concerned with optical link identifiers. Furthermore, the combination of Postel and Cao fails to teach all of the claim limitations; therefore, the claimed invention is not obvious.

Appl. No. 09/633,805
Reply to Office action of November 23, 2004

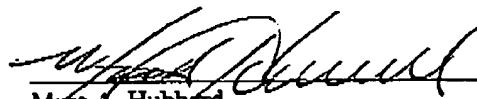
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Please telephone the undersigned representative should he be any assistance in connection with the reconsideration.

Please charge deposit account no. 13-4900 of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. any additional fees associated with this paper

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 24, 2005
Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 4000
Dallas, TX 75202
Tel. (214) 855-7571
Customer No. 23559


Marc A. Hubbard
Registration No. 32,506